



# HQ AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB TX



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### Cornyn to help oversee BRAC

**By Gary Martin**

Express-News Washington Bureau

**Web Posted : 02/08/2003 12:00 AM**

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Cornyn has been chosen to serve on a Senate subcommittee that will oversee the 2005 round of military base closures, an issue of critical importance to Texas, which has 17 military installations.

"The looming base closure round is a tremendous concern to our state," Cornyn, R-Texas, said Friday.

Cornyn said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is expected to submit the initial selection criteria to the Senate Armed Services Committee in less than a year. That criteria will be used to determine which U.S. federal military installations will be closed.

The Senate Armed Services subcommittee for readiness and management support will review the criteria.

Cornyn was assigned to the subcommittee by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the full committee.

"Joining this subcommittee will enable me to ensure that decisions are made in a fair manner and are based on the needs of the military, not political whim," Cornyn said.

Four of the 17 major bases in Texas are located in San Antonio, where federal military spending totals more than \$3 billion annually.

Because of federal military spending, San Antonio, also home to two major military hospitals, is casting a wary eye at the 2005 base closure round.

The round could mothball as many as 100 installations and facilities.

Four previous closure rounds in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995 shuttered 97 major installations and more than 200 smaller facilities, saving \$16.7 billion in operating expenses, according to the General Accounting Office.

The '95 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, commonly called BRAC, ordered the shuttering of Kelly AFB in San Antonio.

Cornyn also was assigned to Senate Armed Services subcommittees that deal with strategic forces, personnel and emerging threats and capabilities.

*S. A. Express-News*

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### Your Turn: 'Another Kelly AFB'

San Antonio Express-News

**Web Posted : 02/10/2003 12:00 AM**

#### **Another Kelly AFB**

Rick Casey's column Wednesday on Toyota was insightful, informative and delightful ("Japanese to change face of San Antonio — for a second time").

I am the daughter of a retired Kelly airplane mechanic and the granddaughter of immigrant pecan shellers. As a youth, my parents told many stories of the economic struggles my family faced because of their brown faces.

However, through hard work, luck and God's blessings, my father found good, steady work at Kelly AFB. Our lives changed for the better.

Kelly is one reason I have been able to attend top-notch colleges and currently work at KellyUSA as community relations manager. I feel like I'm home again. I wanted this job more than I wanted a skateboard for my eighth birthday. (Tuesday was my birthday, so the Toyota announcement was another part of my celebration!)

As a recipient of the economic advantages Kelly AFB provided my family, I wanted to be part of re-creating those same opportunities for today's families. Now I have the honor and privilege of doing so.

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### Budget would enrich Texas

**By Gary Martin**

Express-News Washington Bureau

**Web Posted : 02/08/2003 12:00 AM**

WASHINGTON — Efforts to secure the nation's borders, beef up law enforcement and prepare the military for future demands will send millions in new federal spending to South Texas, according to the budget President Bush has submitted to Congress.

"We remain at war with an enemy that seeks to use murder, stealth and fear against all free nations," Bush said in delivering the phone book-size document that maps out spending for fiscal year 2004, which begins Oct. 1.

Bush's \$2.23 trillion spending plan includes \$390.4 billion for defense and \$36.2 billion for the new Homeland Security Department, which will oversee the nation's borders with Canada and Mexico.

Plans to improve border security will send new technology to Texas, which has roughly half of the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border.

A border security system that includes radiation detection, X-ray machines to inspect cargo and other initiatives is scheduled to receive \$373 million.

The federal budget also includes \$100 million in new funding for an ongoing program that would track the entry and exit of visitors to the United States.

Though it's unknown how many of those program dollars will flow into South Texas, building new border stations for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Customs Service and other federal agencies will bring \$74 million in construction spending.

That includes:

\$24 million for a Del Rio border station.

\$32 million for a station in Eagle Pass.

\$18 million for a new McAllen border station.

Texas counties along the border also are expected to receive roughly half of the \$48 million set aside for the Southwest Border Prosecutors Initiative, which is designed to expedite the growing number of narcotics smuggling cases clogging federal and state court dockets.

Bush's proposal for the drug court initiative is less than budgeted this year, when the administration sought \$50 million to whittle down the growing number of cases.

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### **Budget would enrich Texas, Con't.**

Bush's proposal also would eliminate the \$565 million State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, which has been used by South Texas counties and cities to offset the local cost to prosecute and house undocumented immigrants accused and convicted of crimes.

On housing, the federal budget includes \$16 million — the same amount as last year — for the Colonias Gateway Initiative to improve infrastructure and services for the colonias within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border, which includes San Antonio as well as Phoenix and Los Angeles.

The Southwest Border Water and Wastewater Projects funding under the Environmental Protection Agency would be slashed by half under the Bush proposal, allocating only \$25 million in 2004.

Still funded in the budget would be the Rural Community Advancement Program, which allocates \$11.8 million for water and waste disposal systems that benefit colonias.

In the Transportation Department budget, the Bush administration includes \$32 million to enforce safety regulations on Mexican trucks traveling in the United States under provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

But the Bush administration would slash funding for Amtrak, offering \$900 million. Amtrak officials say they need \$1.2 billion to operate all routes, including the Texas Eagle and the Sunset Limited, both of which run through San Antonio.

"The president's proposed funding for Amtrak," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, "is inadequate."

Hutchison, a Senate Transportation subcommittee chairwoman, said she would try to restore full funding.

"It's important that Amtrak be a national railroad, not just a boutique system for the Northeast," she said.

To improve health care in underserved and poor regions such as South Texas, the budget includes \$1.6 billion to build health centers and expand services to an additional 1.2 million people. The funds will be doled out to states and local governments who apply for the aid, which is an increase of \$169 million over the current year.

Also tucked into the spending blueprint is \$50 million to address HIV/AIDS in minority communities that have been heavily affected by the crisis.

In defense spending, the budget includes \$158.5 million in construction projects for Texas' 17 major bases and installations.

The largest share of project money would go to Lackland AFB, where the Air Force has proposed a 300-room dormitory and another 200-room dormitory, at a cost of \$57 million.

The Air Force also plans to replace 96 family housing units at Randolph AFB for \$13.7 million.

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At Laughlin AFB near Del Rio, a truck fuel facility would be replaced at a cost of \$4.6 million.

There were no Navy, Air Force or Army projects for Coastal Bend sites near Corpus Christi.

Democrats have questioned the budget's priorities, particularly the cost of proposed tax cuts and the projected record \$307 billion deficit in 2004.

Republicans have praised the president for his discipline and for keeping spending in check.



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, TX



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**10-Feb-03**

### Sheppard wins Bike-to-Work Challenge

**By John Ingle**  
**Times Record News**  
**February 7, 2003**

Sheppard Air Force Base was recognized Thursday for mobility reasons, but not in regards to flying.

The base won first place in Bicycling Magazine's Bike-to-Work Challenge that was held in mid-May, Maj. Pat Testerman said.

Testerman presented Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney, 82nd Training Wing commander, and Col. Ralph Jodice, 80th Flying Training Wing commander, with the first-place trophy.

Taking the top spot in May's event wasn't too bad, Testerman said. Especially since this was the first time the base has competed.

"The standard has been set," the major said of the base's accomplishment. "We're defending champions, so we have to prepare" for this year's event.

With about three weeks to prepare for last May's event, Testerman said he was surprised that the base won. Nonetheless, he said it was good to see active-duty members and dependents get involved in fitness.

Rooney didn't appear to be as surprised as Testerman over the victory.

"Thanks for the initiative to lead this," the general said. "It's typical Sheppard. You set a goal and achieve it."

Rooney and Jodice garnered points for the team effort for riding as CEOs in the event.

Rooney said the bike ride and the recent blood drive that broke the state's single-day record are examples of the pride Team Sheppard takes in its activities.

"You set a goal in an organization and you step back" as its leader, the general said. "They take the goal and achieve it."

Jodice said the event wasn't about winning the trophy -- made out of bicycle gears and other parts -- but about getting people involved in fitness, cycling and cycling safety.



Gary Lawson/Times Record News

Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney, left, presents Col. Ralph Jodice, center and Maj. Pat Testerman with a trophy. Sheppard Air Force Base won first place in Bicycle Magazine's Bike to Work Challenge.

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### **Sheppard wins Bike-to-Work Challenge, Con't.**

"It's a testament to the entire base," he said.

Sheppard was awarded points based on the number of riders, how many collective miles were ridden and the amount of media coverage for the event.

Testerman said about 80 cyclists participated in the ride, with Maj. Rainer Schattleitner of the 80th FTW collecting 60 miles during his round trip ride from home.

Testerman said he expects a larger group to turn out for this year's event. One thing he will have on his side this time around is time.

"With more time to prepare," he said, "we should be able to get...higher participation."

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